

NOTE

On the Question of the Selector of the Lectotypes of the
Species of Ichneumonidae Described by
Ezra Townsend Cresson

In the *Catalog of Hymenoptera in America North of Mexico* (Smithsonian Institution Press, 1979), p. 317, paragraph four, reference is made to "The Cresson Types of Hymenoptera" (1916. Mem. Am. Entomol. Soc. 1: 1-134). It is there stated that Cresson in this paper "indicated which single specimen was to be regarded as the type for each; thus he selected lectotypes for those cases in which he had described a species from more than one specimen." My reading of the Cresson paper suggests that Cresson indeed considered a single specimen to be the type, since he describes the condition of each one, but I am unable to see how it can be claimed that he *indicated* a single specimen, since there are no limiting details to accomplish this. In effect, the "Cresson Types" merely indicates the location of the specimen the author considered the type.

Furthermore, I have good reason to believe that holotypes and lectotypes were not segregated by Cresson. In brief, from about 1934 to 1939, I spent two afternoons a week at the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia studying Ichneumonidae in the collections of the American Entomological Society there, and on one occasion I for one reason or another examined one of the reputed Cresson types, at that time stored in a separate case containing only types. To my surprise, I found that the "type" was not of the correct sex. I called this to the attention of E. T. Cresson, Jr., Assistant Curator of Entomology, who informed me that he (a dipterist) and V.S.L. Pate (a worker on aculeates) had picked them (the holotypes or lectotypes) out and were not good on sex in Ichneumonidae, and that I should select the lectotype (a term not then known to me and not mentioned) on the basis of the original description and my (then) knowledge of his father's handwriting, from the series of specimens then kept in cases of the kind described in the introduction to "The Cresson Types," which in this instance and others rather clearly consisted of syntypes (often topotypes).

Evidently the segregated types as I (as well as Townes and other subsequent students) found them had been selected from these series by E. T. Cresson, Jr. and Pate, who would therefore seem to have been the effective lectotype selectors (except for the one I did, which may have been *Ichneumon regnatrix*—I have no record). I find nothing in the Townes catalog of 1944, 1945 (Mem. Am. Entomol. Soc. 11(1, 2)) to support the suggestion in the last sentence of the paragraph in the 1979 catalog referred to above that Townes might technically be the lectotype selector.

It is unfortunate that nothing was published establishing the actual selection.

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